**http://www.noodletools.com/_images_add/nq.gifChoose the Best Search for Your Information Need**

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|  | Need additional search ideas? Try [NoodleQuest](http://www.noodletools.com/noodlequest/) (interactive version) |
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| **I need help to define my topic...** | |
| I need a **topic** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Clusty](http://clusty.com/) | Brainstorm topic ideas using result clusters | | [Social Issues](http://www.multcolib.org/homework/sochc.html) | Browse hot topics and pro/con links | | [Google Directory](http://www.google.com/dirhp) | Search this subject tree enhanced by Google results | |
|  | |
| I need to understand the **scope** of my topic | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Intute](http://www.intute.ac.uk/) | Investigate annotated academic sites | | [INFOMINE](http://infomine.ucr.edu/) | Browse annotated research and educational sites enhanced by second-tier "robot-selected" results | |
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| I need to investigate **alternative or related topics** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Grokker](http://www.grokker.com/) | Explore a web of your topic and subtopics (Yahoo results) | | [Clusty](http://clusty.com/) | Uncover buried sites by choosing a related cluster | | [Ask.com](http://www.ask.com/) | Select "Expand Your Search" | |
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| I need to **refine and narrow** my topic | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Ask.com](http://www.ask.com/) | Select "Narrow Your Search" | | [Clusty](http://clusty.com/) | Drill down into a cluster of results | | [SurfWax](http://www.surfwax.com/) | Click "Focus" to identify similar, broader, and narrower topics | |
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| **I need to find quality results...** | |
| authoritative and scholarly sites chosen by a **subject expert** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Librarians' Internet Index](http://lii.org/) | Search the selective database or drill down into the well-organized subject tree | | [Virtual LRC](http://www.virtuallrc.com/) | Select a subject category, then search on term(s) or a phrase | | [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com/) | Find scholarly, peer-reviewed subject-specific results with [advanced search](http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search?hl=en&lr=) | |
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| **personal help** from experts | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Sources and Experts](http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/experts.htm) | Browse a journalist's contacts | | [Ask a Librarian](http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/) | Get last-resort help (no homework questions) | | [AllExperts](http://www.allexperts.com/) | Self-identified subject experts volunteer to answer questions | |
|  | |
| sites **ranked or tagged** as valuable or relevant | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google](http://www.google.com/) | High PageRank means popular, relevant sites link to the page | | [Technorati](http://www.technorati.com/) | [Browse](http://www.technorati.com/tags/) or search user-identified subjects ("tags") for blog advice or opinions | | [Ask.com](http://www.ask.com/) | High ExpertRank indicates subject-specific popularity | |
|  | |
| **primary** sources | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [American Memory](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/) | Locate documents, sound recordings, images, maps, and other American primary sources | | [Ready, 'Net, Go!](http://www.tulane.edu/%7Elmiller/ArchivesResources.html) | Browse worldwide archival index | | [Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web](http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions/) | Search for online exhibitions selected by Smithsonian librarians | |
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| **I need to do research in a specific discipline...** | |
| government | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [USA.gov](http://www.usa.gov/) | [Search](http://usasearch.gov/) or browse official U.S. information and services | | [Govt. Publications & Maps: Foreign Gov.](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govpub/resource/internat/foreign.html) | Browse worldwide government sites | | [Directgov](http://www.direct.gov.uk/) | Search or browse official UK information and services | |
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| science, engineering and technology | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Scirus](http://www.scirus.com/srsapp/) | Science-specific Web portals, reports, peer-reviewed articles, patents, preprints and journals | | [Natl. Science Digital Lib.](http://nsdl.org/) | Science, technology, engineering and math | | [Intute](http://www.intute.ac.uk/) | [Science, engineering and technology](http://www.intute.ac.uk/sciences/) hub | |
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| health and life sciences | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Intute](http://www.intute.ac.uk/) | [Health and life sciences](http://www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/) hub | | [Fealth](http://www.fealth.com/) | Health-specific search engine and [directory](http://www.fealth.com/directory.html) | |
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| law | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [FindLaw](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/) | Search U.S. cases, codes, news and commentary | | [LOUIS](http://www.louisdb.org/) | Search Congressional documents, Federal Register, GAO reports, bills and resolutions | | [Intute](http://www.intute.ac.uk/) | [Social sciences: Law](http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/law/) hub | |
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| arts and humanities | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Intute](http://www.intute.ac.uk/) | [Arts and humanities](http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/) hub | | [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](http://plato.stanford.edu/) | Browse peer-reviewed, continually-updated entries on contemporary philosophy | |
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| **The timeliness of information that I need is...** | |
| today | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google News](http://news.google.com/) | Top news stories auto-generated every 15 minutes | | [NewsNow](http://www.newsnow.co.uk/) | Worldwide news auto-generated every 5 minutes | | [10x10](http://tenbyten.org/now.html) | Explore machine-compiled single image composed hourly of 100 words and pictures that "matter most" on a global scale | |
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| recent | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Yahoo News](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/) | One month archive with editor-created "roundups" in [Full Coverage](http://news.yahoo.com/fc) | | [World News Network](http://www.wn.com/) | Click a category (below news item) to gather related news or images, select Mon-Sun to track story's development | | [Google News](http://news.google.com/) | Click on "related" (below news item) to see story's development | |
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| historical | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [American Memory](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/) | Search America's primary source documents and images, browse by topic, time period, medium or place | | [Librarians' Internet Index](http://lii.org/) | Drill down into the [history](http://lii.org/pub/topic/history) section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "terrorists" not "Righteous Path") | | [Digital History](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/) | High-quality historical resources, primary sources, multimedia, subject guides | |
|  | |
| ancient | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Ancient History Sourcebook](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html) | Search online ancient-history texts, images, audio, or browse by region, period (e.g., Persia, Late Antiquity) | | [Librarians' Internet Index](http://lii.org/) | Drill down into [ancient history](http://lii.org/pub/subtopic/224) section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "Greece" not "Spartan women") | |
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| **I need facts...** | |
| a person | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Biography.com](http://www.biography.com/search/) | Search 25,000+ biographies by name, keyword and profession | | [Who2](http://www.who2.com/) | Search for famous people with "four good links" to more information | | [Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online](http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html) | Search biographies from Canada's history (16th-20th century) | |
|  | |
| a place | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [CIA World Factbook](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html) | Select country for basic profile and transnational issues | | [Country Studies](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html) | [Cross-search](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/csquery.html) or view a country (last update 1998) - historical, social, economic, political and national security data | | [Stately Knowledge](http://www.ipl.org/youth/stateknow/) | Basic U.S. state facts, links to state government site and encyclopedia (IPL KidSpace) | |
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| a company | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [NYPL: Searching for Company Information](http://www.nypl.org/research/sibl/company/c2index.htm) | Find company information based on your need | |
|  | |
| general reference answers | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Ask.com](http://www.ask.com/) | Find a fact, biography, statistic or conversion, or reference answer | | [Columbia Encyclopedia](http://www.bartleby.com/65/) | Find basic information | | [Yahoo](http://search.yahoo.com/) | Learn [shortcut words](http://tools.search.yahoo.com/shortcuts/) to get quick answers | |
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| news background (facts, people, and documents) | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Intute Behind the Headlines](http://www.intute.ac.uk/behindtheheadlines.html) | Editor-compiled background for headline news | |
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| **I need opinions and perspectives...** | |
| I want **opinions** on current issues | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Yahoo News](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/) | Browse columnists and cartoonists, or search [Opinion](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=index&cid=742) | | [HeadlineSpot Opinion/Editorials](http://www.headlinespot.com/opinion/oped/) | Browse opinion/editorial in U.S. and some international newspapers | | [PollingReport](http://www.pollingreport.com/) | Browse results of U.S. public opinion surveys | |
|  | |
| I need news from **other countries' perspectives** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [World Press Review](http://www.worldpress.org/) | Get nonpartisan summaries of views outside U.S. | | [Newspaperindex](http://www.newspaperindex.com/) | Browse selected world newspapers | | [ABYZ News Links](http://www.abyznewslinks.com/) | Browse international broadcast and Internet news, newspapers, magazines, and press agencies | |
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| I want multiple perspectives on **hot social and political topics** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Social Issues](http://www.multcolib.org/homework/sochc.html) | Links to pro/con on current social issues | | [Public Agenda](http://www.publicagenda.com/citizen) | Analysis of public attitudes on social issues with overview, pro/con, organization links | | [UN News Centre: News Focus](http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/) | Browse for UN-related issues by region, country or topic | |
|  | |
| I want to **compare news treatment** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Newseum](http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/) | Compare news reporting on U.S. front pages | | [PressDisplay](http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx) | Compare news reporting from 55 countries | |
|  | |
| **I need a specific type of media...** | |
| maps | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google Maps](http://maps.google.com/) | Search and view satellite and street-level maps (repeat in [Yahoo Maps](http://maps.yahoo.com/beta/)) | | [MapMachine](http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/) | Search, browse and print country, physical and political maps | | [American FactFinder Maps](http://factfinder.census.gov/jsp/saff/SAFFInfo.jsp?_pageId=gn7_maps) | See trends/patterns when you superimpose chosen geographical features and census data on U.S. maps | |
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| photographs and visual images | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google Image Search](http://www.google.com/imghp) | Use [advanced search](http://www.google.com/advanced_image_search) to limit by size, coloration, file type | | [Yahoo Image Search](http://search.yahoo.com/images) | Use [advanced search](http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images/advanced) to limit by size and coloration | | [Flickr](http://www.flickr.com/) | Search users' photos by their subjects ("tags"), then choose a subtopic ("tag cluster) | |
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| fine art | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Artcyclopedia](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/) | Search (e.g., artist, medium, movement, subject) or browse for digitized art and online exhibits, see [actual size](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/truesize.php?screenw=1280&screenh=1024) | | [Intute: Arts and Humanities](http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/) | [Search](http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/search.html) or [browse](http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/browse.html) selected, evaluated resources | | [SILS Art Image Browser](http://www.si.umich.edu/Art_History/) | A database of art, architectural and museum object images from four collections | |
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| videos | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Yahoo Video Search](http://video.search.yahoo.com/) | Search by keyword or phrase, use [advanced search](http://video.search.yahoo.com/video/advanced) to limit by file format, size, duration and domain | | [Truveo](http://www.truveo.com/) | Video-only search engine, [advanced search](http://www.truveo.com/advancedSearch.php) limits by title, description, actor, director, genre, duration, quality | | [Internet Archive: Moving Image Archive](http://www.archive.org/details/movies) | Search public domain films, newsreels, ads, documentaries, television series and other “cultural artifacts” | |
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| radio | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [PublicRadioFan](http://www.publicradiofan.com/) | Find public radio programs and podcasts worldwide | |
|  | |
| music | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google](http://www.google.com/) | To find song lyrics, search (in quotes) title or performer (plus) "song lyrics," to find information about the song's history search title (in quotes) and "origin" | |
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| sounds | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [FindSounds](http://www.findsounds.com/types.html) | Get sound effects and music samples: select a keyword or search a term limited by file format, quality and size | | [Soundsnap](http://www.soundsnap.com/) | Free, user-contributed sounds can be browsed or searched by category, keyword or tag | |
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| speeches | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [American Rhetoric](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/) | [Search site](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/sitesearch.htm) or browse categories of full-text, audio and video of American public speeches, lectures, debates, interviews, events | | [History and Politics Out Loud](http://www.hpol.org/) | Search or browse full-text public-domain audio with transcripts of 20th century political and historical events, personalities, and protest songs | | [American Memory](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/) | Find [sound recordings](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?format=Sound+Recording) of American primary source speeches | |
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| quotations | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Bartleby.com Quotations](http://www.bartleby.com/quotations/) | Search classic passages, phrases and proverbs (1901 edn.) | | [Quotations Page](http://www.quotationspage.com/search.php3) | Search word, phrase, author within or across quotation collections | | [Quoteland](http://www.quoteland.com/) | Search by keyword or browse topics, authors | |
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| statistical data | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Statistical Information (NoodleTools)](http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/resources/math/stats.html) | Links to statistical databases and advice on locating and understanding data | |
|  | |
| dictionary or thesaurus (for definitions, etymology, pronunciation, synonyms) | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Yahoo Reference](http://education.yahoo.com/reference/) | Definitions, etymology, synonyms (English and Spanish) and audio-pronunciation | | [Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus](http://www.m-w.com/) | Definitions, etymology, synonyms and audio-pronunciation | | [WordCentral](http://www.wordcentral.com/) | Definitions with pictures (student dictionary) | |
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| encyclopedia | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Columbia Encyclopedia](http://www.bartleby.com/65/) | Factual information (updated 6/05) | | [Wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia.org/) | Volunteer-created and collaboratively edited: valuable for current topics (e.g., people in the news), technology (e.g., podcasting) -- information quality uneven | |
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| almanac data | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Country at a Glance (U.N.)](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/infonation/index.asp) | Basic country profile, use [InfoNation](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/infonation3/menu/advanced.asp) to compare data from 6 countries | | [Information Please Almanac](http://www.infoplease.com/almanacs.html) | Statistical and factual data -- beware popup minefield | |
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| books and other printed works | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [WorldCat](http://worldcat.org/) | Search for books and reviews, options to refine results, check your local library's holdings | | [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com/) | Search (free and fee) scholarly works, locate related information using "cited by" links, use [advanced search](http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search) to limit (author, date, phrase, in title, subject area) | | [A9](http://a9.com/) | Search for books by keyword, then "Search Inside!" to see keyword-in-context | |
|  | |
| **I have special search requirements...** | |
| run my search **periodically** and be notified of new results | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [GoogleAlert](http://www.googlealert.com/) | Run Google search of 3 interests and get e-mail or RSS notification of new results | | [Google Alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts) | Run periodic Google searches and get e-mail (no RSS) notification of new results | |
|  | |
| specify a **country** where my search results are located | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google](http://www.google.com/) | Limit by domain ([advanced search](http://www.google.com/advanced_search)) or by country ([Language Tools](http://www.google.com/language_tools)) | |
|  | |
| use a search engine **outside the U.S.** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Search Engine Colossus](http://www.searchenginecolossus.com/) | Browse search engines and directories from countries and territories | |
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| find sites organized by the **Dewey Decimal System** or **Library of Congress Classification** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Virtual LRC](http://www.virtuallrc.com/) | Select Dewey Decimal number before searching | | [INFOMINE](http://infomine.ucr.edu/) | Drill down into [Library of Congress Classification directory](http://infomine.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/browse?category=all&field=LCC) | | [BUBL LINK](http://bubl.ac.uk/link/search.cfm) | Select "DeweyClass" from dropdown menu in Advanced Search | |
|  | |
| locate resources by **file type** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google](http://www.google.com/) | [Limit search](http://www.google.com/advanced_search) by file type (.pdf, .ps, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .rtf) | | [Yahoo](http://search.yahoo.com/) | [Limit search](http://search.yahoo.com/web/advanced) by file type (.html, .pdf, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .xml, .txt) | |
|  | |
| **I am...** | |
| a kid | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [KidsClick!](http://www.kidsclick.org/) | Find kid-friendly sites with educational content (grades K-7) selected by librarians | | [Ask Kids](http://www.askkids.com/) | Search by keyword, then select the best-match question for answers and links | | [Yahoo Kids](http://kids.yahoo.com/) | Select from kid-safe sites (grades 2- 7) organized by topic | |
|  | |
| pretty new to the Internet | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Google](http://www.google.com/) | Largest general purpose search engine | | [Yahoo](http://search.yahoo.com/) | Large, general purpose search engine | | [Librarians' Internet Index](http://lii.org/) | Easy-to-navigate, well-annotated directory of librarian-selected Web sites | |
|  | |
| an Internet wizard | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Exalead](http://www.exalead.com/) | Configure highly-specific searches including proximity ("folk tales NEAR sun"), but smaller index than Google or Yahoo | | [INFOMINE](http://infomine.ucr.edu/) | [Configure a narrow search](http://infomine.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/search) of a large, comprehensive academic virtual library (Web sites, databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, directories of researchers) | | [JUX2](http://www.jux2.com/) | Compare results to Identify the strengths of Google, Yahoo and MSN for your search | |